Post peeler automatically pulls log past a 22-in. dia. disk equipped with four 6-in. knives. They take off bark, leaving post smooth and round.

Portable Post-Peeling Machine

Some people use this post-peeling machine to take the bark off fence posts. Others peel logs to make teepee poles. Still others use it to take bark off small limbs and branches to make natural wood furniture.

Anders and Debra Rosenlund, Kingston, Idaho, import the Austrian-built post peeler to the U.S. Their company, Scandinavian Forestry Tech, sells two versions of the post peeler, along with a variety of other machines for small-scale logging.

The larger, more expensive peeler automatically feeds up to 9 1/2 in. dia. logs past a 22-in. dia. disk equipped with four 6-in. knives. The automatic feeder pulls the log through the knives in a spiral pattern, taking off bark, and stubs up to an inch long, leaving the post smooth and round. A blower blows bark strips and wood chips into a pile away from the machine.

Rosenlund says the bark can be recycled as livestock bedding, mulch or fuel.

Logs must be fed manually through the smaller version and, since it has no blower, bark and chips must be removed from the work area manually.

Rosenlund says by manually feeding the logs through the machine, branch stubs can be left on the posts. It can peel off bark without leaving marks on the wood. “A lot of people who make rustic wood furniture use this machine,” she says.

Both machines can also sharpen posts so they can be driven easily. Power is supplied by a tractor pto, gas or diesel engine, or electric motor. The larger automatic model requires at least 22 pto hp or a 15 hp motor or engine, while the smaller needs only a 5 hp single-phase electric motor, 10 to 12 hp from a gas or diesel engine, or 15 hp at the pto.

The automatic feed sells for $4,795 while the manual machine goes for $2,295. Both prices are without add-on motors or engines to power the units.

Rosenlund says commercial post and pole makers generally find the bark is also a valuable commodity. “Horse owners like the bark strips better than shavings or sawdust for bedding,” Rosenlund says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Scandinavian Forestry Tech, P.O. Box 427, Kingston, Ill. 61251 (ph 208 682-2002; E-mail: foresttvone@nidlink.com; Website: www.forestenindustry.com/forestrytech).

They’re Using Magnets To Heat & Cool

Magnetic heating and cooling? The idea is still years away from commercialization, according to researchers and developers, but magnet-based heating and cooling systems will likely find their way eventually onto farms.

The concept was originally conceived in the 1920s, but other forms of refrigeration were more efficient and attractive at the time, so it got put on the shelf.

However, recent efforts by scientists at Astronautics Corporation of America, Madison, Wisconsin, and the Ames Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy lab operated by Iowa State University, have refined the process to the extent that it now operates by Iowa State University, have Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy lab in Madison, Wisconsin, and the Ames Astronautics Corporation of America, so it got put on the shelf.

We had been using an apron-type spreader to haul manure from our chicken barn over to a pile, where we dumped it for spreading later. It took as long to dump the manure as it would have taken to spread it in trees,” says Wurz. “Our home-built dump spreader has much more capacity and dumps the manure a lot faster. Also, we don’t have to deal with all the maintenance costs of an apron-type spreader.”

The 2-wheeled wagon has a 3/4-in. thick plywood box that measures 4 1/2 ft. wide, 11 ft. long, and 3 ft. high. The box is built on a steel frame made from 6 by 1-in. sq. tubing and is supported on both sides by a series of 2 1/2-in. steel bars. The floor and sides of the box are lined with slippery fiberglass. An easy-to-operate, scissors-action lever at the back of the box is used to release the tailgate. The box is raised and lowered by a pair of 5-in. dia. hydraulic cylinders off an old Dodge dump truck.

“It’s built simple and strong,” says Wurz. “We use trucks and tractors in the spring to spread the piled-up manure on our fields. The wagon rides on big 3 1/2-ft. high wheels so it pulls easy, and the manure slides easily off the fiberglass floor and sides. We used glue and anchors to fasten the fiberglass to the plywood. If we want we can flip the tailgate all the way over and store it on top of the wagon, where it’s held in place by a pair of chains.”

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Pull-Type “Sky Jack”

“Sky Jack” is being built from used parts...